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nuclear warhead than do today's American missiles.

"The American missile force has been looked upon as a deterrent to the possibility of a thermonuclear attack by the Soviet Union.

"Because such an attack would inevitably destroy a large percentage of our missiles before they could get off the ground, it has been considered essential to the United States to maintain a very substantial numerical lead in intercontinental missiles, so that the Kremlin would know that even if they hit us with a sneak attack, we would still have enough missiles left to inflict devastating damage on the Soviet Union.

"But now we are in the danger of losing this numerical advantage.

"No one, not even the Russians, can know for certain just how effective their anti-missile defense system will be against a saturation attack by American missiles equipped with decoys and other penetration aids.

"It has been estimated that an anti-missile defense system, comparable in magnitude to the one now being installed in the Soviet Union, would cost the United States 30 billion dollars, or more.

"And I simply cannot conceive of the Soviet leaders spending this kind of money on erecting a defense system, if they did not have substantial evidence that this system would effectively cope with an American nuclear counterattack, or at least limit the damage done by it."